

Message Text

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42

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-05 /021 W

----- 118560

R 220900Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS CASABLANCA 0308

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, MO

SUBJ: FY 1975 GRANT ASSISTANCE TO CASABLANCA BRANCH SCHOOL

FOR LUEBKE FROM BRUBECK

REF: DEPARTMENT OM DATED MARCH 28, 1975

1. WHILE I AM ACUTELY AWARE OF THE FINANCIAL STRINGENCIES CURRENTLY FACING THE DEPARTMENT, THE FY 1975 GRANT ASSISTANCE TO THE CASABLANCA BRANCH, RABAT AMERICAN SCHOOL AS FORWARDED BY REFERENCE WILL UNLESS INCREASED REQUIRE A DRASTIC CURTAILMENT OF THE SCHOOL'S EXISTING PROGRAM, AND THEREFORE OF ITS SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN/ENGLISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY IN CASABLANCA

AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE AMOUNT GRANTED IS ONLY FORTY PER CENT OF WHAT WAS ASKED, AND WHAT WAS ASKED WAS A PARED-TO-THE BONES BUDGET WHICH HAD BEEN VERY CAREFULLY REVIEWED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD AND BY ME. THERE WAS NO FAT IN IT.

2. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT TWO OF THE MAJOR FACTORS CONSIDERED IN ALLOCATING ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO OVERSEAS SCHOOLS ARE A.) THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENROLLMENT REPRESENTED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE DEPENDENTS, AND B.) THE ABILITY OF THE SCHOOL TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM LOCAL PRIVATE SOURCES. WITH REGARD TO THE FIRST, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD NOW EXPECTS AN ENROLLMENT OF 10 - 12 U.S.

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DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY DEPENDENT CHILDREN FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL

YEAR - AN INCREASE OF 3 - 5 OVER THE CURRENT AND EARLIER-PROJECTED FIGURE. I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT SUCH AN EXPANSION CARRIES WITH IT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN INCREASE - RATHER THAN A REDUCTION - IN THE LEVEL OF OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SCHOOL.

3. THE SCHOOL BUDGET SUBMISSION ESTIMATED THAT WE COULD REALISTICALLY COUNT ON NO MORE THAN \$8500 IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY DURING THE COMING YEAR. SINCE THAT SUBMISSION WAS MADE, FURTHERMORE, THE FINAL STAGES OF THE MOROCCANIZATION OF MOST AMERICAN FIRMS IN CASABLANCA HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS IN OUR FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN INDICATE THAT WITH DE FACTO CONTROL OF THESE FIRMS NOW IN MOROCCAN HANDS, IT WILL BE CONSIDERABLY MORE DIFFICULT (IN SOME CASES IMPOSSIBLE) FOR THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS OF THESE FIRMS TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BRANCH SCHOOL. THUS FOR THE COMING YEAR AND THOSE AHEAD, THE SCHOOL BOARD'S FUND-RAISING CAPABILITIES WILL BE SEVERELY CURTAILED.

4. FINALLY, THE SCHOOL BUDGET SUBMISSION PROJECTED A SURPLUS FOR THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR OF \$12,476. IN FACT, THIS SUM WILL BE NO MORE THAN ONE-HALF THAT AMOUNT, DUE TO THE UNEXPECTED MID-YEAR TRANSFER FROM MOROCCO OF THE FAMILIES OF SOME STUDENTS.

5. IN SUM, AN INCREASE IN OFFICIAL US-DEPENDENT ENROLLMENT, A SHARP DROP IN OUR FUND-RAISING CAPABILITIES, AND AN UNFORESEEN 50 PER CENT REDUCTION IN THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET SURPLUS ARGUE STRONGLY FOR A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE ASSISTANCE GRANT FORWARDED BY REFERENCE. I HOPE THAT YOU CAN URGENTLY REVIEW THE PROPOSED GRANT IN LIGHT OF THESE DRASTICALLY CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES AND ADVISE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO INCREASE FUNDS FOR SCHOOL. BRUBECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CASABL00308
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750140-0819
From: CASABLANCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750426/aaaaaxsj.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OPR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DEPARTMENT OM DATED MARCH 28, 75 1975
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY 1975 GRANT ASSISTANCE TO CASABLANCA BRANCH SCHOOL FOR LUEBKE FROM BRUBECK
TAGS: ASCH, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006